

Message Text

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14-12

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 SS-15 NSC-05 MC-02 ACDA-05 L-02

PRS-01 TRSE-00 EB-07 COME-00 SAJ-01 SAM-01 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 IO-10 /072 W
----- 101976

R 101502Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9572

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

USCINCEUR

OSAF WASHDC

OASD/ISA

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 1463

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BEXP, MASS, NATO, NO

SUBJ: AIRCRAFT REPLACEMENT: MORE ON APRIL 3 MOD MEETING

REF: OSLO 1352

1. DEFENSE MINISTER FOSTERVOLL PROVIDED ME THIS MORNING
(APRIL 10) WITH PERSONAL RUN DOWN OF APRIL 3
MOD MEETING IN BRUSSELS, IN FOLLOW-UP TO OUR TELEPHONE
CONVERSATION OF LAST WEEK REPORTED REFTEL.

2. SEPARATE MEETINGS WITH EACH DEFENSE MINISTER EVENING
OF APRIL 2 BROUGHT FOSTERVOLL TO CONCLUSION THAT NONE
OF THE RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS WAS AS ADVANCED AS HE
HAD PREVIOUSLY THOUGHT IN REACHING A FINAL DECISION.

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FOSTERVOLL THEREFORE DECIDED TO DOMINATE THE APRIL 3
MEETING AND CRYSTALLIZE CONSENSUS RE F-16 AND WORDING

OF COMMUNIQUE DERIVED FROM HIS INDIVIDUAL CONSULTATIONS
THE EVENING BEFORE.

3. VANDEN BOEYNANTS, ACCORDING TO FOSTERVOLL, WHILE
STILL A QUESTION MARK, APPEARED TO BE SWAYED BY THE
ARGUMENT "DO YOU WANT TO BE THE ONE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE
BREAK UP OF THE FOUR-NATION CONSORTIUM?" THE NORWEGIAN
DEFENSE MINISTER USED THE GAVEL FREQUENTLY DURING THE
SHORT APRIL 3 MEETING TO KEEP VANDEN BOEYNANTS FROM
DIGRESSING ON THE PHONEY FRENCH PRICE ISSUE.

4. VREDELING WAS SOMEWHAT OPTIMISTIC DURING PRIVATE MEETING
WITH FOSTERVOLL, CLAIMING THAT ALTHOUGH HE HIMSELF COULD
MAKE DECISION ON F-16 AND CONSORTIUM, HE CHOSE TO BRING
IN DUTCH PARLIAMENT SINCE ISSUE HAD SUCH OBVIOUS IMPACT
ON MANY ASPECTS OF NETHERLANDS SECURITY AND ECONOMIC
POLICIES.

5. MINISTER FOSTERVOLL'S DUTCH, DANISH, AND BELGIAN
COUNTER PARTS AGREED TO INFORM HIM OF THE DECISION OF
THEIR RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS BY APRIL 30, ALTHOUGH
FOSTERVOLL PERSONALLY DOUBTS BELGIUM WILL MEET THIS
DEADLINE. WITHIN NORWEGIAN CONTEXT, FOSTERVOLL NEEDS
THESE RESPONSES TO ENABLE THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT
TO SUBMIT AIRCRAFT PROPOSAL TO THE NORWEGIAN STARTING
BY MAY 1; FAILURE TO DO SO COULD POSTPONE NORWEGIAN
STORTING CONSIDERATION UNTIL JANUARY 1976. WHILE FOSTER-
VOLL IMPLIES HE COULD ACCOMODATE "BRIEF DELAY" BEYOND
APRIL 30, ANY EXTENDED PERIOD WITHOUT FIRM DECISION BY
OTHER THREE GOVERNMENTS WOULD CERTAINLY FORECLOSE POS-
SIBILITY OF STORTING CONSIDERATION THIS SPRING.

6. NEXT MEETING MOF MOD'S IS TENTATIVELY SET FOR MAY 5
WITH PLAN TO BRIEF NATO EUROGROUP IN LONDON MAY 6-7.
FALLBACK MEETING DATE IS MAY 8. ALTHOUGH FOSTERVOLL
HOPES TO HAVE FINAL GOVERNMENT DECISIONS IN HAND BY
END OF APRIL, EARLY MAY MEETING IS EXPECTED TO BE DECISIVE
IN DETERMINING FUTURE OF FOUR-NATION COSSORTIUM.

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7. FYI-IN SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT UNRRRELATED TO MY
MEETING WITH FOSTERVOLL, WE HAVE NOTED EXPRESSIONS OF
SERIOUS CONCERN BY SENIOR NORWEGIAN MOD OFFICIALS OVER
PUBLICATION BY AVIATION WEEK OF STEERING COMMITTEE REPORT
EVALUATING THE THREE CANDIDATE AIRCRAFT. END FYI.
BYREN

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